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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT
(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

REC'D 13 OCT 2004	
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Applicant's or agent's file reference 21781WO		FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/PEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/NL 03/00687	International filing date (day/month/year) 10.10.2003	Priority date (day/month/year) 10.10.2002	
International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC D02G3/44			
Applicant DSM IP ASSETS, B.V.			

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.
2. This REPORT consists of a total of 5 sheets, including this cover sheet.

☐ This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

 These annexes consist of a total of sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:
 - I ☒ Basis of the opinion
 - II ☐ Priority
 - III ☐ Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
 - IV ☐ Lack of unity of invention
 - V ☒ Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
 - VI ☐ Certain documents cited
 - VII ☐ Certain defects in the international application
 - VIII ☐ Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 02.04.2004	Date of completion of this report 14.10.2004
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:  European Patent Office - P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL-2280 HV Rijswijk - Pays Bas Tel. +31 70 340 - 2040 Tx: 31 651 epo nl Fax: +31 70 340 - 3016	Authorized Officer D'Souza, J Telephone No. +31 70 340-4236 

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. PCT/NL 03/00687

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **elements** of the international application (*Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17)*):

Description, Pages

1-18 as originally filed

Claims, Numbers

1-11 as originally filed

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- ☐ contained in the international application in written form.
☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages:
☐ the claims, Nos.:
☐ the drawings, sheets:

5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)).

(Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.)

6. Additional observations, if necessary:

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. **PCT/NL 03/00687**

**V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability;
citations and explanations supporting such statement**

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	1-11
	No: Claims	
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	1-11
	No: Claims	
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-11
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

Re Item V

Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

Reference is made to the following document:

D1: EP-A-0 740 002 (BERKLEY & CO INC) 30 October 1996 (1996-10-30)

1 Claim 1 - Novelty (Article 33(2) PCT)

- 1.1 The document D1 is regarded as being the closest prior art to the subject-matter of claim 1, and discloses (the references in parentheses applying to this document):

A process for making a monofilament-like product from at least one strand of polyolefin fibres, comprising the steps of exposing the precursor to a temperature within the melting range of the polyolefin for a time sufficient to at least partially fuse adjacent fibres and simultaneously stretching the precursor at a draw ratio of at least 1.0.

- 1.2 The subject-matter of claim 1 therefore differs from this known process in that the strand is a spun yarn made from polyolefin staple fibres.
- 1.3 The subject matter of claim 1 is therefore novel (article 33(2) PCT).

2 Claim 1 - Inventive step (Article 33(3) PCT)

- 2.1 The problem to be solved by the present invention may be regarded as being to improve the tensile strength of a monofilament like fishing line.
- 2.2 The solution to the problem proposed in claim 1 of the present application is considered to involve an inventive step (Article 33(3) PCT), because in the available prior art it is neither known nor suggested to use a precursor yarn made from staple fibres.

3 Claims 10 and 11 - Novelty (Article 33(2) PCT)

- 3.1 D1 is also considered to represent the most relevant state of the art concerning independent claims 10 and 11.
- 3.2 The distinguishing feature between these claims and D1 is the same as set out in point 1.
- 3.3 Therefore the subject matter of claims 10 and 11 is novel (article 33(2) PCT).

4 Claims 10 and 11 - Inventive step (Article 33(3) PCT)

- 4.1 The argumentation in point 2 applies equally to claims 10 and 11. Therefore claims 10 and 11 are considered to involve an inventive step (Article 33(3) PCT).

5 Dependent claims

- 5.1 Claims 2 - 9 are dependent on claim 1 and as such also meet the requirements of the PCT with respect to novelty and inventive step.